

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

- 1 (original): A process for producing dihydroxydiphenylsulfone comprising the steps of:
dissolving or suspending crude dihydroxydiphenylsulfone containing trihydroxytriphenylsulfone in an aqueous solvent;
adjusting the pH of the aqueous solvent to 5-7;
optionally cooling the aqueous solvent; and
separating the precipitated crystalline dihydroxydiphenylsulfone.
- 2 (original): A process for producing dihydroxydiphenylsulfone comprising the steps of:
dissolving or suspending crude dihydroxydiphenylsulfone containing trihydroxytriphenylsulfone in an aqueous solvent by adding alkali;
adjusting the pH of the aqueous solvent to 5-7 by adding an acidic substance;
optionally cooling the aqueous solvent; and
separating the precipitated crystalline dihydroxydiphenylsulfone.
- 3 (original): The process for producing dihydroxydiphenylsulfone according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the pH is adjusted to 6 or greater and less than 7.
- 4 (currently amended): The process for producing dihydroxydiphenylsulfone according to ~~any one of Claims 1-3~~ or 2, wherein the crude dihydroxydiphenylsulfone contains trihydroxytriphenylsulfone in a proportion of 30 wt.% or less.
- 5 (currently amended): The process for producing dihydroxydiphenylsulfone according to ~~any one of Claims 1-4~~ or 2, wherein the crystalline dihydroxydiphenylsulfone is separated at 60°C or lower.
- 6 (new): The process for producing dihydroxydiphenylsulfone according to Claim 3, wherein the crude dihydroxydiphenylsulfone contains trihydroxytriphenylsulfone in a proportion of 30 wt.% or less.
- 7 (new): The process for producing dihydroxydiphenylsulfone according to Claim 3, wherein the crystalline dihydroxydiphenylsulfone is separated at 60°C or lower.
- 8 (new): The process for producing dihydroxydiphenylsulfone according to Claim 4, wherein the crystalline dihydroxydiphenylsulfone is separated at 60°C or lower.
- 9 (new): A method for producing dihydroxydiphenylsulfone comprising:

dissolving or suspending crude dihydroxydiphenylsulfone containing trihydroxytriphenylsulfone in an aqueous solvent, said dihydroxydiphenylsulfone constituted of isomers;

adjusting the pH of the aqueous solvent to 5-7 to precipitate crystalline dihydroxydiphenylsulfone; and

recovering the precipitated crystalline dihydroxydiphenylsulfon, wherein trihydroxytriphenylsulfone and coloring impurities are separated therefrom without changing the proportion of the isomers.

10 (new): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the dissolving or suspending of the crude dihydroxydiphenylsulfone is accomplished by adding alkali.

11 (new): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the adjusting of the pH is accomplished by adding an acidic substance.

12 (new): The method according to Claim 9, further comprising cooling the aqueous solvent after the dissolving or suspending of the crude dihydroxydiphenylsulfone.

13 (new): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the pH is adjusted between 6 and 7.

14 (new): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the crude dihydroxydiphenylsulfone contains trihydroxytriphenylsulfone in a proportion of 30 wt.% or less.

15 (new): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the crystalline dihydroxydiphenylsulfone is precipitated at room temperature to 90°C.

16 (new): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the crystalline dihydroxydiphenylsulfone is recovered at 60°C or lower.

17 (new): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the isomers are 2,4'-dihydroxydiphenylsulfone (2,4'-DDS) and 4,4'-dihydroxydiphenylsulfone (4,4'-DDS) wherein a weight ratio of 2,4'-DDS/4,4'-DDS is 0.1/99.9 to 98/2.

18 (new): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the aqueous solvent is used 0.5-10 times the crude dihydroxydiphenylsulfone.

19 (new): The method according to Claim 10, wherein the alkali is an alkali metal hydroxide.